IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 5, 6, and 12-20 as follows.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein step d) occurs in a multi-hearth roaster with the ability to move a layer of material about 6-12 inches deep with rotating arms equipped with plow-shaped protrusions.

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6. The method of claim 5 wherein the roaster further includes a plurality of decks constructed of heat conductive, non-corrosive metal, wherein each deck includes floor supports and ceilings formed from thin-shelled reinforced concrete double-wall construction.

12. The fuel of claim 11 further comprising the steps of:

after step d) and before step e)

b) extracting tar gases;

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c) filtering the tar gases; and

d) washing the tar gases.

13. The fuel of claim 11 wherein during step d), the roasting temperature is between about 300 and 700 degrees Celsius.

14. The fuel of claim 12 wherein during step d), the carbonaceous precursor material is roasted for between about 2 hours and about 4 hours.

15. The fuel of claim 11 wherein step d) occurs in a multi-hearth roaster with the ability to move a layer of material about 6-12 inches deep with rotating arms equipped with plow-shaped protrusions.

16. The fuel of claim 15 wherein the roaster further includes a plurality of decks constructed of heat conductive, non-corrosive metal, wherein each deck includes floor supports and ceilings formed from thin-shelled reinforced concrete double-wall construction.

17. The fuel of claim 16 wherein the roaster further includes a number of outside walls and wherein each outside wall has at least one port adapted to provide anaerobic access to the roaster.

18. The fuel of claim 12 wherein step f) includes the use of injected steam to assist in the removal of the tar gases.

19. The fuel of claim 11 further comprising the step of after step a) and before step d) adding a carbonate acceptor material to facilitate sulfur removal.